



St. Clare Catholic School

Newsletter

February 12, 2018

From Mrs. Gruber:

As we begin our Lenten journey this year, I've copied some excerpts from the USCCB website. As in Advent, there is a calendar for Lent with readings, prayers, and reflections. I encourage you to use this site if you are looking for some reflections and prayers to inspire you during Lent. I will be reading to the students from a devotional from Pope Francis during Lent.

Take inspiration for your Lenten journey from prayer and the reading of Scripture, from fasting and from giving alms. The fasting that we all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is an effort to share this world equally—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. The key to fruitful observance of these practices is to recognize their link to baptismal renewal. We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ. We recall those waters in which we were baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

"Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."

Common question Catholics get asked on Ash Wednesday:

What's with that dirt on your head?

Who hasn't gotten that question on Ash Wednesday before? Do you feel silly when people ask you about your ashes? And is it hard to answer their questions? Having ashes on your forehead isn't just some weird Catholic thing: it's a tradition that finds its roots in the Old Testament. "I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes" (Daniel 9:3). When the ashes are placed on our foreheads in the sign of the Cross, it is a reminder of several things. First, it is a call to repentance: a physical sign that we are sinners in need of forgiveness, which is how the prophets used it in the Old Testament. Second, it is to remind us that God created us from the earth and when we die, we will return to it. But here's the best part: As Pope Benedict XVI has said, "Man is dust and to dust he shall return, but dust is precious in God's eyes because God created man, destining him to immortality." God so loves us that, even when our bodies return to the dust, our souls are meant to live forever with him. The ashes symbolize all of this.

May we use Lent as a time for reflection, prayer, fasting and almsgiving,

May 24 is the date of the spring fine arts show. This will include band performances, recorder performances, general music class performances, and an art show. There will be performances at 1:00 & 6:00 p.m.

I was given an idea for a used St. Clare apparel sale or "swap". If there is someone who would be able to coordinate this event in May and or September, please let me know. We would collect used St. Clare apparel to either sell or have a "swap".

Dates to remember:

Feb. 13 conferences (at this time these are optional or by teacher request)

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Mass 2:00

Feb. 16 Ski Brule trip-There is no school!

Feb 20 Home and School meeting @ 6:30

Feb. 21 Feasting for Funds Van Abel's of Hollandtown 4-8

March 28 Shadow Stations (grade 8 volunteers will lead) 1:30 & 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sorenson has information about the Girl Choir at the Academy of Music at Lawrence University. Contact her if you would like more information or go to go.lawrence.edu/academy-girlchoir.

Mystic Monk coffee is ordered monthly and order forms are available on the website (stclarek-8.org).

Please return only *Box Tops* to school. Campbell's soup no longer takes labels and the aluminum pop tops can be given right to any McDonald's for the Ronald McDonald House, we are not collecting them at this time.

When using Amazon, use amazonsmile and choose St. Clare as your nonprofit of choice. This is an easy way to earn money for our Parish/school.

[Read more on our website](#)
